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30 November 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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South Vietnam: Buddhist leaders seem determined to carry on their opposition to the Huong government.

The large, disorderly, funeral procession in Saigon yesterday for a Buddhist youth killed in last week's demonstrations was probably intended as a show of Buddhist strength. The Buddhists defied a government order limiting the number of funeral marchers.

In a press conference on 28 November, Buddhist leader Thich Tam Chau accused Huong of trying to discredit Buddhism. Chau was particularly incensed by Huong's accusations that last week's demonstrations and grenade throwings originated from inside the Buddhist institute. He further charged that Huong is following former president Diem's repressive tactics, but asserted that the Buddhists still rely on the High National Council and Chief of State Suu.

Under questioning by reporters, however, Chau indicated that the Buddhists would not be satisfied with a partial cabinet reshuffle and would apply an "all-out nonviolence and noncooperation campaign" if the government "continues on the present basis."

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DAILY BRIEF

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Iran: Popular reaction to stringent economic decrees recently announced by Prime Minister Mansur's government may bring about its replacement.

Strikes have occurred in Tehran and the provinces in the aftermath of price increases imposed on consumers by the government oil monopoly. These increases put a particularly heavy burden on the masses, which use oil products for cooking and heating. Although the security situation is at present calm, there are widespread rumors of imminent disorders.

The Mansur government entered office eight months ago, accusing the last elected government of having ruined the economy and promising measures to revive it. However, drought ruined the summer wheat crop, the 1965 winter wheat crop is in danger, and the government has been forced to use its low foreign exchange reserves to import large quantities of wheat. As a result of these and other difficulties, the cabinet's popularity has declined sharply in recent weeks.

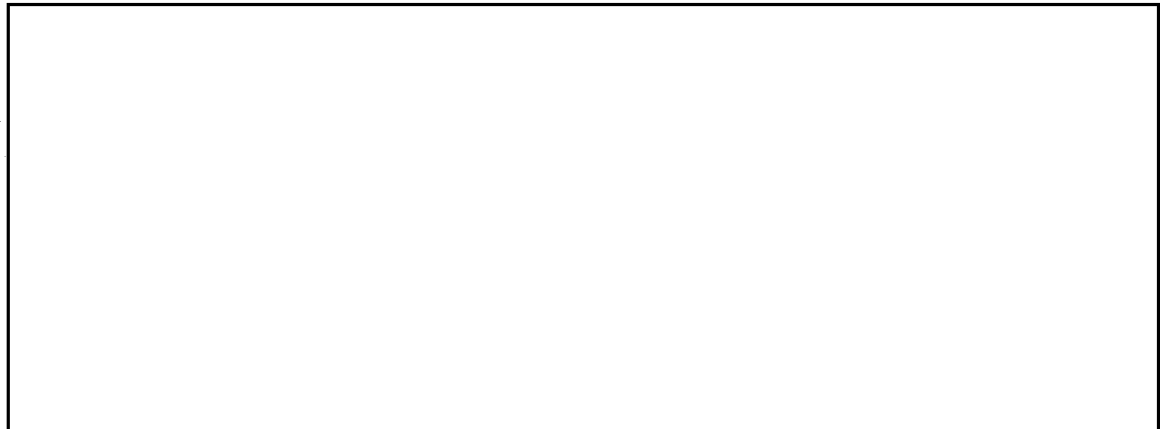
25X1 The Shah, who is sensitive to tarnishing of his image as a "progressive" leader, may feel that Mansur is unable to handle the situation and must be sacrificed. [REDACTED]

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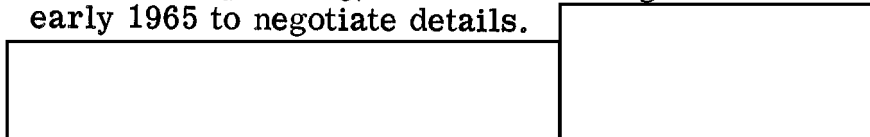
NOTES

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/ Communist China - Afghanistan: The Chinese have offered a \$28 million long-term development credit which Afghanistan has accepted "in principle." The offer, the first to be made to Kabul by Peiping, was extended during King Zahir Shah's recent visit to China. An Afghan delegation, headed by the deputy minister of planning, is scheduled to go to China in early 1965 to negotiate details.

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DAILY BRIEF

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